

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7030 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Emma Knight Atchley of Sevierville.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Emma Knight Atchley; and

WHEREAS, Emma Atchley was a beloved family matriarch and former educator, an exemplary public servant and a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on December 3, 1919, Mrs. Atchley was the daughter of Floyd and Marie Conner Knight; she grew up on a farm outside of Dayton; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from what was then Carson-Newman College in 1942 with a degree in mathematics, she taught for one year in Rossville, Georgia, thereafter moving to Newport News, Virginia, where she worked briefly as a junior engineer at Langley Field; and

WHEREAS, in July 1943, Emma Atchley boarded a train to Los Angeles, where she married Ensign Bill Atchley on July 31, 1943; while he served with the Navy in Brazil, she worked for Tennessee Valley Authority in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atchley resumed her career in education in the early 1960s, teaching algebra, geometry, and English until her retirement in 1994; she was named Sevier County Secondary Teacher of the Year in 1988; and

WHEREAS, she continued to contribute to the education of young people as a member of the Retired Teachers Association and as a zealous supporter of the Sevier County High School Smoky Bears, and in 2010, she was inducted into both the Sevier County Education Hall of Fame and the Sevier County High School Athletic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, she was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion and Delta Kappa Gamma, and she was a founding member of the Sevier County Teachers Credit Union; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atchley evinced her devout religious faith as a member of First Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school for three-year-olds for sixty years and led the Women's Missionary Union; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Barbara Atchley; sons and daughters-in-law, Bill Jr. and Sally Atchley, Bob and Norma Atchley, Bruce and Sheila Atchley, and Brent and Karen Atchley; grandchildren, Amy (Bobby) Eggimann, Truett (Lisa) Atchley, Blake (Meredith) Atchley, Katie Atchley, Bryan (Kristi) Atchley, Jr., Ann Marie Atchley, Kayla Atchley, Michael Wynn, Abbey Atchley, Emily Atchley, Daniel (Shasta) Patrick, and Graham Patrick; and

WHEREAS, she is further survived by her great-grandchildren, Joey Eggimann, Charlie Eggimann, Will Atchley, Wyatt Atchley, Hailey Atchley, Cooper Atchley, Linton Atchley, River Atchley, Ansley Atchley, JoJo Atchley, Trace Wynn, Blake Wynn, and Magnolia Patrick; sister-in-law, Helen Knight; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atchley was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-five years, former State Representative William Truett "Bill" Atchley; son and former mayor of Sevierville, Bryan Atchley; daughters-in-law, Cherie Atchley and Susan Atchley; sisters and brothers-in-law, Mildred and Howard Cockrum and Lucille and Ken Woodfin; and brothers and sister-in-law, Conner and Mary Knight and Felix Knight; and

WHEREAS, Emma Atchley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Emma Knight Atchley, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Atchley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.